1,000 live births in the 4 years 1945-48, and subsequently declined to 162 in 1949 and to 166 in 1950. As in the case of population death rates, the infant mortality statistics are exaggerated by the inclusion of immigrant deaths.

Figures for the 5 years 1946-50 indicate that deaths among children under 5 years of age accounted for 34 to 38 per cent of the total deaths. The stillbirth rate varied from 54 to 73 per 1,000 births; the maternal mortality rate, from 4 to 7 per 1,000 live births and stillbirths.

Few statistical studies have been made in the Aden protectorates. The total death and infant mortality rates are believed to be generally higher than those of the Colony, but in the absence of authentic records, inadequate data are available for measuring the actual health status of the people. Evidence obtained from the interrogation of 76 women, from 15 to 45 years of age, in Western Aden Protectorate in 1939-40[30] suggests an average infant mortality of 245 per 1,000 live births, varying from 80 to over 500 in different localities. Infancy was not accurately defined, however, and any baby breast-fed and unable to walk was classified as an infant. The mortality among children under 5 years of age was 25 to 100 per cent greater in most areas. Malnutrition and ignorance of the fundamental principles of child care are important factors contributing to the high mortality in infancy and early childhood in both the Colony and the Protectorate.

Social Economy

The economy of the Colony is based almost entirely upon shipping and trade. Not only is Aden a prominent fueling station for ocean and coastwise vessels, but it derives considerable wealth from the transshipment of goods to and from Yemen and adjacent territories, usually by means of dhows and camel caravans. The production of salt in evaporation beds along the coast surrounding Aden harbor is the only export industry. Numerous small plants have been

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Women, with little children, or decrepit, sick old men are sitting under the rough shelters. The babies lie in very practical cradles, which look just like gaping oyster-shells with little feet. The little one lies in the lower shell whilst the upper slants over him as a protection against sun and wind. When mother has to go away she takes the cradle and its contents with her, carrying it with the open side against her. The infant lies on woven rushes or on a skin, and, in the latter case, a round hole four inches in diameter is cut in it so that thus diapers are dispensed with! The mothers stand in great dread of the evil eye, so one must not show too much interest in the babies.

We distributed some small coin among the children and old men, and, as we talked, the uneasiness of the others gave way. A woman discovered a gold tooth in the mouth of one of us, and we both had to submit our mouths to a detailed examination. Outcries of amazement and, thereupon, great and general merriment!

Then they found more strange things about these *Efrendjīs*. The most forward among the women, after having examined our mouths, went further. She began to rub vigorously with her dark, hard fingers on the white inner side of my arm. They all watched in suspense: it remained white! Then she pulled my khaki shirt a little wider open at the neck: again white. All the bystanders burst into laughter, and the examination was continued. My shirt was pulled out of my breeches, and a long-drawn "Ēh! Ēh!" of amazement went up when it appeared that my abdomen was also quite white. The black hand was passed admiringly over that part of my anatomy.

When my examiner wished to continue her exploration, I assured her that the rest was really all the same colour. "Had we done it with soap?" They had heard that the *Efrendjīs* were in the habit of rubbing it into themselves.

"No, God has made us so."

"Doubtless you live in houses so that the sun cannot make you black as we are? Doubtless you only live on milk?"

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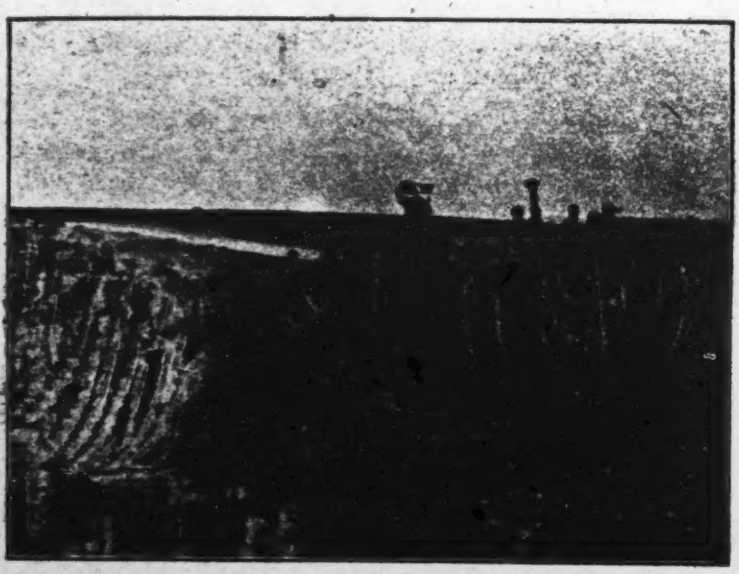

Euphorbia candelabra, on the coastal terrace between Makalla and esh-Shihr.

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Dwelling of Ḥaiqī Bedouins at Rēdet Shebēr. In the foreground a Bedouin cradle.

[facing p. 24]